

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the topics of immigration reform, border security, and state and federal cooperation on immigration are concerns that are of great importance to state and local government entities of both sides of the United States-Mexico border;

WHEREAS, the federal government is currently making historic strides to fixing an immigration system that has long been broken;

WHEREAS, every social sector stands to benefit from a reform of our federal immigration system;

WHEREAS, The United States of America is a land of immigrants, and the migration of people and families from all corners of the world has enriched the American culture;

WHEREAS, the El Paso/Juarez Community understands that the border has joined our community both socially and economically;

WHEREAS, in addition to the cultural and social riches the nation receives through our border, our ports of entry drive regional and national economic development approaching \$500 billion in trade and one in 24 American jobs;

WHEREAS, our nation's progress is rooted in values that promote a diversified economy, protect family unity, and opportunity and liberty for all sectors of our society;

WHEREAS, this is a complex issue that must consider a balanced approach to securing the border while still allowing continued commerce and legal migration;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

1. That the City of El Paso, and its duly elected Mayor and Representatives, support a reasonable and comprehensive approach to reforming the now broken immigration system.
2. That the City of El Paso supports a bi-national and bi-partisan effort to secure the border that includes adequate staffing and infrastructure at the ports of entry to facilitate and encourage economic growth.
3. That civil and human rights are deeply rooted in the American fabric and must be instilled in all elements of our enforcement apparatus to ensure the humanity of an individual must be recognized and respected.

4. That it is not practical to deport the 11 million undocumented immigrants living within our borders, but that citizenship should be earned by following an established pathway to citizenship.
5. That the comprehensive approach includes accountability for companies who knowingly hire undocumented workers as well as giving employers a reliable way to verify that their employees are here legally.
6. That the immigration system be streamlined to be more efficient in order to attract the best minds to America and encourage foreign graduate students in high demand fields like math, science, and technology to stay after graduation.
7. That legislation should strengthen prohibitions against racial profiling and inappropriate use of force, enhance the training of border patrol agents, increase oversight, and create a mechanism to ensure a meaningful opportunity for border communities to share input, including critiques.
8. That legislation reduce backlogs in the family and employment visa categories so that future immigrants view our future legal immigration system as the exclusive means for entry into the United States.
9. That future waves of illegal immigration be prevented by creating a humane and effective system for these immigrant workers to enter the country and find employment without seeking the aid of human traffickers.
10. That legislation provides businesses with the ability to hire lower-skilled workers in a timely manner when Americans are unavailable or unwilling to fill those jobs while protecting workers by ensuring strong labor protections.
11. That immigration reform provides young people who entered the United States as minor children not knowingly violating immigration laws should be entitled to an expedited pathway to citizenship through military service or the attainment of higher education.
12. That the bi-partisan group of U.S. Senators who rose above the divisive politics of the day to create an agreement in principle should be commended for their work.
13. That the City of El Paso will provide input and support legislation that is effective, responsible, humanitarian and not an encumbrance to international commerce.

APPROVED this the 5th day of February 2013 by the City Council of the City of El Paso, Texas.

CITY OF EL PASO

John F. Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:

Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Sylvia Borunda Firth
City Attorney